



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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30 March 2009

APPROVED

Staff

Senior

Mark J. Madison
Director of Municipal Utilities
City of Stockton
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ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT R5-2009-0526 FOR ASSESSMENT OF MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES, CITY OF STOCKTON REGIONAL WASTEWATER CONTROL FACILITY, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Enclosed is an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint), issued pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13385, for violations of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Orders 94-324, R5-2002-0083, and R5-2008-0154 (NPDES No. CA0079138), and Time Schedule Order R5-2008-0155 at the City of Stockton Regional Wastewater Control Facility. The Complaint charges the City of Stockton (Discharger) with civil liability in the amount of **sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000)**, which represents the sum of accrued Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) for effluent limitation violations which occurred from 1 January 2000 through 31 December 2008.

On 10 November 2008, the Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACLC) R5-2008-0606 for MMPs covering the period from 1 January 2000 through 30 April 2008. This ACLC has not yet been settled. On 10 February 2009, Central Valley Water Board staff issued a draft Record of Violations (ROV) covering the period from 1 May 2008 through 31 December 2008. The Discharger responded on 17 February 2009 and agreed that the ROV accurately reflected violations at the facility. In addition, the Discharger listed violations which had not been included in the ROV or the previous ACLC. ACLC R5-2009-0526 rescinds and replaces the previous ACLC, and includes all violations from January 2000 through December 2008.

Pursuant to CWC section 13323, the Discharger may:

- Pay the assessed civil liability and waive its right to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board by signing the enclosed waiver (checking off the box next to item #4) and submitting it to this office by **29 April 2009**, along with payment for the full amount;
- Agree to enter into settlement discussions with the Central Valley Water Board and request that any hearing on the matter be delayed by signing the enclosed waiver (checking off the box next to item #5) and submitting both the waiver and either (a) a letter describing the issues to be discussed, or (b) a SEP proposal that contains the information described below to this office by **29 April 2009**; or

California Environmental Protection Agency



- Contest the Complaint and/or enter into settlement discussions with the Central Valley Water Board without signing the enclosed waiver.

If the Discharger chooses to sign the waiver and pay the assessed civil liability, this will be considered a tentative settlement of the violations in the Complaint. This settlement will be considered final pending a 30-day period, starting from the date of this Complaint, during which time interested parties may comment on this action by submitting information to this office, attention Barry Hilton. Should the Central Valley Water Board receive new information or comments during this comment period, the Central Valley Water Board's Executive Officer may withdraw the complaint, return payment, and issue a new complaint. If the Central Valley Water Board does not hold a hearing on the matter, and if the terms of the final settlement are not significantly different from those proposed in the enclosed Complaint, then there will not be additional opportunities for public comment on the proposed settlement.

As described in CWC section 13385(l)(1), a maximum of \$37,500 of this liability may be applied to a Supplemental Environmental Proposal (SEP). Any proposal for a SEP must include information showing how it meets the criteria of the State Water Board's February 2009 *Policy on Supplemental Environmental Projects*, and must include a project description, timeline, deliverables, and budget. In accordance with the Policy, the Central Valley Water Board may require the payment of staff oversight costs in addition to the base penalty, or may require the City to hire a third-party auditor to oversee expenditure of SEP funds. In the event that a SEP is approved, Central Valley Water Board staff will develop an ACL Order memorializing the settlement. This Order will then be subject to a new 30-day comment period, during which time interested parties may comment on the action.

If the Central Valley Water Board does not receive a signed waiver within 30 days of the date of this Complaint (**by 29 April 2009**), then a hearing will be scheduled for the **11/12 June 2009** Central Valley Water Board meeting in Rancho Cordova. The Central Valley Water Board's Prosecution Team has proposed the enclosed draft Hearing Procedures to govern the conduct of such a hearing. Any objections to these draft Hearing Procedures must be received by Lori Okun, whose contact information is listed in the enclosed draft Hearing Procedures, by **5 p.m. on 10 April 2009**.

Any comments or evidence concerning the enclosed Complaint must be submitted in accordance with the deadlines contained in the enclosed draft Hearing Procedures, unless these deadlines are changed by the Central Valley Water Board's Adjudicatory Team, either on their own accord or upon request.

In order to conserve resources, this letter transmits paper copies of the documents to the Discharger only. Interested persons may download the documents from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/tentative_orders/.

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint, please contact Barry Hilton at (916) 464-4762.

WENDY WYELS

Supervisor

Compliance and Enforcement Section

Enclosure: ACLC R5-2009-0526

Draft Hearing Procedure

Hearing Waiver

cc w/o encl: Mr. Kenneth Greenberg, USEPA, Region 9, San Francisco
Mr. Reed Sato, Office of Enforcement, SWRCB, Sacramento
Mr. Patrick Pulupa, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB, Sacramento
Ms. Lori Okun, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB, Sacramento
Ms. Emel Wadhwani, Office of Chief Counsel, SWRCB, Sacramento
Ms. Carol Oz, Department of Fish and Game, Region 2, Rancho Cordova
San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department, Stockton
Mr. Bill Jennings, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Stockton
Mr. Daniel Cooper, Lawyers for Clean Water, Inc.
Mr. Michael Lozeau, Lozeau Drury LLP